The marquee said "WELCOME MHS CLASS OF '52." That was only the beginning! The Holiday Inn in Merrillville was ablaze with lights, cameras, good food, booze and beautiful people. Thirty-four of those beautiful people were from our class of 52 and eight were our old teachers (judging by their good looks now, some of those "old" teachers must have only been about 20 years old when they taught us.)

Coach Dick Demaree was the entertainment of the evening. He provided the bellylaughs and nostalgia, etc. He was at his best.

There were many expensive (?) prizes awarded that evening by Barb and Terry Pierce. Just to name a few--Jim Sievert was the most newly married (he was on his honeymoon,) Frances (Wade) Willey with the most children--9; David Bookwalter--Dirty Old Man; Jeannette Bennington traveled the furthest--from Hawaii; Wayne Hartnup--most intelligent; least amount of money in pocket--Norma (Lines) Schroeder's husband; Bob Mekola was the most athletic (he was walking with a cane) and Frank Foreman had the least amount of hair. He won a wig and promptly modeled it.

The teachers present seemed to enjoy themselves much as anyone. Those present were Irene and Glen Collins, Philip Needham and his wife, Dick and Honor Demaree, Ed and Martha Englehart, Stan and Julie Semokaitis and Grace and Jim Bovard.

The best part of the evening was reminiscing with some of the "kids" that have moved away or that we just don't see. Among others were Jack Hillis, Wayne Hartnup, Jay Bennington, the Ashtons, Springers, etc., etc., etc.

We missed a lot of people and sincerely hope we will see them at the 25th year reunion. We thought of you all and there was a void due to your absences.

The committee put in DAYS and HOURS of HARD WORK arranging the reunion and writing the bio's. It was expensive for the committee, too. Our first meeting (with our spouses) was at the Holiday Inn in June of 1971 to sample the food. There was gas involved (because one member moved to Jasper County) and coffee, tea and/or pop. Was it worth it? YES! We had a lot of fun at the dinner dance and the picnic the next day.

You will note that several people did not reply. If you are one of these people or if you know the address of some of them, PLEASE write to a member of the next reunion's committee. They are Ed Hein, chairman; Twila and Bob Blankenbaker; Laura Carnegie and Dan Smith.

We with to thank Ed Hein for the use of his home for the picnic on Sunday. We hope to have it again in '77.

Your 20th Year Reunion Committee--

Ron Jones
Peggy Saager
Barb and Terry Pierce
Doris Alexander

Newsletter - Class of 52

Our evening at the Scherwood Club in Schererville started by getting re-acquainted at the cocktail hour before a delicious dinner.

The teachers and their spouses who attended were:

Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Needham
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Collins
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Demaree
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Miller
Mrs. Grace Bovard - (Jim was in the hospital with a fractured back he got in a fall. He's doing fine now)

Each of the teachers gave a brief summary of the past 25 years.

Thirty one classmates and their partners were present. Each couple received a miniature silver loving cup as a momento.

Ron Jones gave a brief talk on the progress of Merrillville High School system - how we grew from 2 to 8 schools and the growth of the Town of Merrillville as well.

Ron also was able to obtain 3 trophies from our class. These were to be stored away and we were able to auction them off to help get our next reunion going.

High bids on the trophies were:

Basketball - Calumet Conference - Dwayne Willy
(Dwayne turned it back in for auction at the next reunion - you fellows still have a chance at it!)

Basketball - Holiday Tourney - Bob Mekola

Baseball Trophy - Jerry Jones

It was voted to hold our next reunion in 5 years. The new committee will be:

Ron Langbehn
Jack Hollar
Frank King
Ann Nosich
Pat Krampien
Noreen Oresik

We had a group picture taken in color and if you were lucky enough to order one, you'll see how nice they turned out. The old gang looks pretty good.

After the meal, auction and business were over we enjoyed listening and dancing to the music of "Easy Street". Quite a few stayed until the wee hours of the morning.

The next afternoon, Sunday, we were threatened with rain, but the sky cleared and we had a beautiful day at Ed Hein's farm. We all enjoyed the delicious roast beef and pig, served with hot and cold dishes, drinks and desserts. All the food and drink were donated. Some of the young people (some of our classmates included) had the energy for games of Volley Ball and Frisbie. Others of us sat around and gabbed. Everyone had a very good time and we're looking forward to our 30th year reunion.

Until we meet again:

Ed Hein
Laura Carnegie
Marion Leach
David Bookwalter

LEFT TO RIGHT

Front row - Ron Jones, Jack Hillis, Ed Hein, Jack Hollar, Jim Sievert, Ron Langbehn.

Second Row - Teachers Stan Semokaitis, Dick Demaree, Ed Englehart, Phil Needham, Irene Collins, Glen (Pop) Collins, Grace (Garmong) Bovard, Jim Bovard.

Third Row - Twila Harding, Jeannette Bennington, Joan Griemann, Barb Rhodes, Peg Bogan, Nona Lou Murray, Pat Chentnik, Carmella DeGaetano, Sally Deeter, Norma Lines, Anna Ratajac, Doris Spurr, Shirley Butcher, Frances Wade, Laura Novak, Marion Horner.

Back Row - Bob Blankenbaker, John Ashton, Frank Foreman, Terry Pierce, Bob Mekola, Wayne Hartnup, Dan Smith, Tom Barbercheck, Dave Bookwalter, Bob Horst, Bill Springer, Jim Jones.

20 year reunion